

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (material to be inserted is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or, if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see, in double brackets [[]]).

We Claim:

1. (Currently amended) A threaded connection for connecting a first component and a second ~~substantially cylindrical shaped components~~ component in having a pre-defined axial alignment, said connection comprising:
 - A.
 - (i) a first set of threads provided on a first component connection end of said first component, and
 - (ii) a second set of threads provided on a second component connection end of said second component, ~~(iii) such that when~~ wherein said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment and said first component connection end abuts said second component connection end, said first set of threads and said second set of threads are synchronous; and
 - B. a connection collar adapted to be:
 - (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end abuts said second component connection end, and
 - (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end[[,]] after said second component connection end abuts said first component connection end and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment[[,]] while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.
2. (Previously presented) The threaded connection of claim 1 wherein said first set of threads is externally disposed on said first component connection end and said second set of threads is externally disposed on said second component connection end.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The threaded connection of claim 1 wherein said first component has one or more openings therein that align with one or more openings in said second

component when said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment.

5. (Currently amended) The threaded connection of claim 4 wherein an item is disposed through at least one of said openings in said first component and through a corresponding aligned ~~said aligned~~ opening in said second component.

6. (Currently amended) A threaded connection for connecting a first component and a second ~~substantially cylindrical-shaped components~~ component in ~~having~~ a pre-defined axial alignment, said connection comprising:

A. ~~(i)~~ a first set of threads provided on a first component connection end of said first component, ~~[(ii)]~~ a second set of threads provided on a second component connection end of said second component, wherein ~~and (iii) said first and second components being disposed such that (i) said first component connection end is separated from said second component connection end by such a distance that if said first set of threads and said second set of threads were continuous through said distance they would form a continuous-thread path between said first component and said second component, and [(ii)]~~ said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment; and

~~[[B.]]~~ a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end is separated from said second component connection end by said distance, and (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end ~~[[,]]~~ after said first component connection end is separated from said second component connection end by ~~[[a]]~~ said distance and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment ~~[[,]]~~ while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.

7. (Currently amended) A threaded connection for connecting ~~a first component~~ and ~~a second~~ ~~substantially cylindrical-shaped components~~ component ~~having a pre-defined axial alignment~~, said connection comprising:

A. a spacer having a first spacer end and a second spacer end,

B. (i) a first set of threads having a first timing and provided on a first component connection end of said first component, and

- (ii) a second set of threads having a second timing and provided on a second component connection end of said second component, wherein ~~(iii) such that when said first component connection end abuts said first spacer end, of said spacer and said second component connection end abuts said second spacer end of said spacer, when, and~~ said first and second components are disposed in a said pre-defined axial alignment, ~~said first set of threads and said second set of threads are synchronous;~~ and
 - C. a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end abuts said first spacer end and said second spacer end abuts said second component connection end, and (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end~~[[,]]~~ after said second component connection end abuts said second spacer end and said first spacer end abuts said first component connection end and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment~~[[,]]~~ while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.
8. (Currently amended) A threaded connection for connecting first and second substantially cylindrical-shaped components having a pre-defined axial alignment, said connection comprising:
- A. a spacer having a threaded end and a top end,
 - B. (i) a first set of threads having a first timing and provided on a first component connection end of said first component, and
 - (ii) a second set of threads having a second timing and provided on a second component connection end of said second component,
 - (iii) such that when said first component connection end is attached to said threaded end of said spacer and said second component connection end abuts said top end of said spacer~~[[,]]~~ when said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment, said first set of threads and said second set of threads are synchronous; and
 - C. a connection collar adapted to be (i) threaded onto said first component connection end before said first component connection end is attached to said threaded end of

said spacer and said top end of said spacer abuts said second component connection end, and (ii) threaded onto said second component connection end[[,]] after said second component connection end abuts said top end of said spacer and said threaded end of said spacer is attached to said first component connection end and said first and second components are disposed in said pre-defined axial alignment[[,]] while said pre-defined axial alignment is maintained.

9. (New) A system comprising:
 - a first component having a first set of threads associated with a first component connection end;
 - a second component having a second set of threads associated with a second component connection end; and
 - a connection collar configured to:
 - thread onto the first component before the first component connection end abuts the second component connection end, and
 - thread onto the second component connection end after the second component connection end abuts the first component connection end to maintain a pre-defined axial alignment with the connection collar being threaded onto the first set of threads and the second set of threads.
10. (New) The system of claim 9 wherein the first set of threads are disposed on an external surface of the first component and the second set of threads are disposed on an external surface of the second component.
11. (New) The system of claim 10 further comprising:
 - a first notched portion of the first component having the first set of threads disposed therein;
 - a second notched portion of the second component having the second set of threads disposed therein; and
 - the connection collar configured to be disposed in the first notched portion of the first component and thread onto the second set of threads within the second notched portion of the second component.

12. (New) The system of claim 9 wherein the first component and the second component are covered in suitable coating of a material to provide protection from galling or corrosion.
13. (New) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
 - a first plurality of openings in the first component;
 - a second plurality of openings in the second component, wherein the first plurality of openings and the second plurality of openings align to form one or more passages through the first component and the second component.
14. (New) The system of claim 9 wherein the one or more passages comprise at least one of an electrical plug type connection, sealed fluid passage, unsealed fluid passage, wireline passage, visualization passage for optical access, laser beam communication passage, ball or plug passage, and any combination thereof.
15. (New) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
 - a first seal configured to be disposed between the first component and the connection collar; and
 - a second seal configured to be disposed between the second component and the connection collar, wherein the first seal and second seal isolate the first set of threads and the second set of threads from a region external to connection collar.
16. (New) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
 - a nipple associated the first component; and
 - a nipple recipient associated with the second component, wherein the nipple and nipple recipient are configured to maintain pre-defined axial alignment between the first component and the second component.
17. (New) A method comprising:
 - providing a first component having a first set of threads and a second component having a second set of threads;
 - threading a connection collar onto the first component;
 - abutting the first component to the second component in a predefined axial alignment;
 - threading the connection collar onto the second component after the second component abuts the first component to maintain the pre-defined axial alignment by the

connection collar being threaded onto the first set of threads and the second set of threads.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the first set of threads and the second set of threads are synchronous.
19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the first set of threads are disposed on an external surface of the first component and the second set of threads are disposed on an external surface of the second component.
20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the connection collar is disposed within a notched portion of the first component and threadably engaged with a notched portion of the second component.
21. (New) The method of claim 17 comprising coating the first component and the second component with a suitable coating of a material to provide protection from galling or corrosion.
22. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising forming at least one passage through a first plurality of openings in the first component and a second plurality of openings in the second component.
23. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising disposing an item into the at least one passage.
24. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein threading the connection collar onto the second component forms a sealed internal region between the connection collar and the first and second components.
25. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising securing a nipple associated the first component into a nipple recipient associated with the second component to maintain pre-defined axial alignment between the first component and the second component.